

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 29th July 1893.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Masik"	Calcutta	.....
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
2	"Bankura Darpan"	Bankura	360	
3	"Grāmvasi"	Ramkristopur, Howrah	1,000	
4	"Kaliyuga"	Calcutta	.....
5	"Kasipur Nivasi"	Kasipur, Barisál	300	
6	"Navamihir"	Ghatail, Mymensingh	500	
7	"Sadar-o-Mufassal"	Tahirpur, Rajshahi	650	
8	"Ulubaria Darpan"	Ulubaria	755	
<i>Tri-monthly.</i>				
9	"Hitakari"	Tangail Mymensingh...	800	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
10	"Bangavasi"	Calcutta	20,000	22nd July 1893.
11	"Banganivasi-o-Prakriti"	Ditto	8,000	21st ditto.
12	"Burdwan Sanjivani"	Burdwan	320	18th ditto.
13	"Cháruvartá"	Sherpur, Mymensingh	300	17th ditto.
14	"Chinsura Vartavaha"	Chinsura	.....	23rd ditto.
15	"Dacca Prakash"	Dacca	5,000	
16	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	1,050	
17	"Hindu Ranjiká"	Boalia, Rajshahi	212	
18	"Hitavadi"	Calcutta	3,000	20th ditto.
19	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi"	Berhampore	.....
20	"Pratikar"	Ditto	611	21st ditto.
21	"Rangpur Dikprakash"	Kakinia, Rangpur	170	
22	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	800-1,000	19th ditto.
23	"Samaj-o-Sáhitya"	Garibpore, Nadia	1,000	23rd ditto.
24	"Samaya"	Calcutta	3,000	21st ditto.
25	"Sanjivani"	Ditto	4,000	22nd ditto.
26	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong	.....
27	"Saraswat Patra"	Dacca	(300-400)	22nd ditto.
28	"Som Prakash"	Calcutta	800	24th ditto.
29	"Srimanta Sadagar"	Ditto	.....
30	"Sudhakar"	Ditto	3,600	
<i>Daily.</i>				
31	"Banga Vidyá Prakashiká"	Calcutta	500	20th and 21st July 1893.
32	"Bengal Exchange Gazette"	Ditto	.....
33	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandriká"	Ditto	1,500	23rd to 26th July 1893.
34	"Samvad Prabhakar"	Ditto	1,435	22nd and 26th July 1893.
35	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	20th and 21st July 1893.
36	"Sulabh Dainik"	Ditto	.....	21st, 22nd and 24th to 27th July 1893.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
37	"Dacca Gazette"	Dacca	500-600	24th July 1893.
HINDI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
38	"Darjeeling Mission ke Másik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling	400	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
39	"Aryavarta"	Dinapore	750	
40	"Bihar Bandhu"	Bankipore	500	
41	"Bharat Mitra"	Calcutta	1,500	
42	"Champaran Chandrika"	Bettiah	350	
43	"Desi Vyapari"	Calcutta	.....
44	"Hindi Bangavasi"	Ditto	5,000	
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
45	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch"	Bankipore	750	
46	"Anis"	Patna	.....
47	"Calcutta Punch"	Calcutta	.....
48	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide"	Ditto	300	
49	"General and Gauhariasti"	Ditto	410	

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
50	" Mehre Monawar " ...	Muzaffarpur ...	.....
51	" Reis-ul-Akhbar-i-Murshidabad " ...	Murshidabad ...	150	
52	" Setare Hind " ...	Arrah ...	.....
53	" Shokh " ...	Monghyr ...	100	
URIYA.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
54	" Asha " ...	Cuttack ...	80	
55	" Echo " ...	Ditto ...	.....
56	" Pradip " ...	Ditto ...	.....
57	" Samyabadi " ...	Ditto ...	.....
58	" Taraka and Subhavartá " ...	Ditto ...	.....
59	" Utkalprabhá " ...	Baripada ...	250	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
60	" Dipaka " ...	Cuttack ...	.....
61	" Samvad Váhika " ...	Balasore ...	225	
62	" Uriya and Navasamvád " ...	Ditto ...	420	
63	" Utkal Dípiká " ...	Cuttack ...	400	
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.				
BENGALI.				
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
64	" Paridarshak " ...	Sylhet ...	480	
65	" Silchar " ...	Silchar ...	250	
66	" Srihattavási " ...	Sylhet ...	.....	First fortnight of Sravan, 1300 B.S.

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Sahachar* of the 19th July has the following:—

Political refugees from Afghanistan.

Slaves cannot breathe in England; but directly a man sets his foot in India, he becomes a slave. The people driven from Afghanistan by Amir Abdur Rahman are detained in India as political prisoners by Government and supported out of Indian revenues. Yakub Khan and Ayub Khan, who are detained in India, are in receipt of large pensions. They have a large following, consisting of women and servants. The Amir is now sending away from his country men in batches on suspicion of their being the well-wishers of Yakub Khan. It is rumoured that 50 refugees from Afghanistan are coming to Peshawar every day. Though it is the Amir who has confiscated the properties of these men they will have to be supported by the Indian Government. Theebaw and the other Burmese political prisoners must not also be forgotten in this connection. Is not the bad name which England has earned for herself by detaining Napoleon Bonaparte in St. Helena sufficient for her? The writer is at a loss to say why political refugees from Afghanistan should be supported by the people of India.

SAHACHAR.
July 19th, 1893.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The *Bangavasi* of the 22nd July says that Government has adopted very stringent measures in some places, in order to prevent quarrels between the Hindus and the Muslims on the occasion of the *Muharram* festival.

The authorities and the *Muharram* festival.

But the adoption of such stringent measures will do evil rather than good, inasmuch as they will the more forcibly remind the people of the occasion for the same, and thus more strongly inflame their vindictive feelings. The authorities, however, do not seem to understand this, or they would not have adopted such measures. Very strict police watch has been arranged for at Calcutta, Howrah, and Hooghly in Bengal, and at Bareilly, Gazipur, and Gorakhpur in the North-Western Provinces. In Rangoon many Hindus and Muslims have been enlisted as special constables. The writer believes that the quarrels between the Hindus and the Muslims are entirely due to the fault of the authorities. The leaders of the two communities ought, however, to understand that these internal quarrels are doing mischief to both.

BANGAVASI,
July 22nd, 1893.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

3. Referring to the decision in the Burdwan Missionary case, the *Banganivasi* of the 21st July says that it was not at first clear, why the husband of the girl was sentenced to a fine. But it now appears from the judgment that the husband acted improperly in trying to enforce his right before the Court had decided as to whether he was entitled to the guardianship of his wife, and that he was also guilty of the serious offences of having beaten the missionary ladies and of not bringing his wife, when he had recovered her from the hands of the Missionaries, before the Court. But then the accused husband had many things to urge in his defence. It is not possible for a man to act with calmness of judgment at a moment of such excitement as that under which the husband in this case was called upon to act. Besides, in the present case the Missionaries were the real cause of the riot. It is really strange that people who have come out to preach religion should have by their riotous conduct evoked such an amount of discord and irreligious feeling. It is absolutely necessary that the country should try to get rid of these Christian Missionaries, or it will be impossible for the Hindus to live in peace with their wives and children.

The Burdwan Missionary case.

BANGANIVASI,
July 21st, 1893.

4. Referring to the proposal to remove the Sahazadpur Munsifi in the Pabna district to Sirajganj, the *Bangavasi* of the 22nd July says that those people who held a meeting the other day to protest against the proposed removal and have submitted a memorial to Government to that effect have not done well to do so. The more thickly is the country studded with law courts, the greater

The proposed removal of a Munsifi in the Pabna district.

BANGAVASI,
July 22nd, 1893.

will be the desire of the people to involve themselves in law suits. And is it wise to create a perverse tendency in the many because only a few will feel some hardship in going to a distance to have their wrongs righted by the law courts?

(d)—Education.

SANJIVANI,
July 22nd, 1893.

5. The *Sanjivani* of the 22nd July says that the decline of her agriculture is the cause of the frequent famines that have visited India of late years. The chief obstacles to Indian agriculture are drought, excessive rainfall, the gradually diminishing fertility of the soil, cattle plagues and the degeneracy of the Indian cattle. In view of the importance of the question, Government has made up its mind to disseminate a knowledge of an improved system of agriculture among the people through the medium of the Education Department. That this has become absolutely necessary no one can doubt for a moment. But the mere establishment of model farms and the exhibition and distribution of their produce will not lead to the attainment of the desired object. There is no better way of improving the agricultural prospects of the country than by properly training the people in an improved system of agriculture. But seeing how Government is gradually withdrawing its support from the education of the people, will it be able fully to achieve this object, which cannot be secured without the establishment of agricultural pathsalas and schools in every village? For the past twelve years Government has been making a great ado about the matter, and it is to be hoped that the labours of the mountain will not end in the birth of a mouse.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
July 24th, 1893.

6. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 24th July has the following:—

Sir Charles Elliott and the Bengal Education Department.

The Education Department will be ruined if Sir Antony MacDonnell gives effect to Sir Charles Elliott's proposal for curtailing educational expenditure in these provinces. A measure which will have the effect of dissatisfying the entire body of educational officers can never result in any good. As Sir Alfred Croft did not see his way to approve the unjust proposals of Sir Charles, he had to go away on leave in sheer vexation. But the new Director of Public Instruction is giving effect to all those proposals. This is not as it should be. Every Director of Public Instruction should show the same independence as Mr. Atkinson showed in the time of the then Lieutenant-Governor, Sir William Grey. The writer is sorry that Dr. Martin cannot follow Sir Alfred's example. The writer would be glad if some member of the local Legislative Council were to put a question in Council regarding the proposed educational arrangements.

SULABH DAINIK,
July 26th, 1893.

7. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 26th July draws attention to the hardship of

The rule about the reappearance of plucked F. A. candidates at future examinations.

the rule which compels a candidate who has been plucked at the F. A. examination, but who intends to appear at the next examination, either to prosecute a course of study in a college for six consecutive months, or to be employed as a teacher in some educational institution. To many poor students a further course of study for six months in a college is an impossibility, and the operation of the rule leaves them no alternative but to accept a post in some insignificant school on a pittance of not more than ten rupees a month. The writer suggests that like plucked B.A. candidates, the plucked F.A. candidates too should be allowed to appear at a future examination without being required to prosecute a course of study in a college or to confine their service only to a teachership.

SULABH DAINIK.

8. The same paper complains of the hardship of the percentage rules of the

The percentage rules of the Calcutta University.

Calcutta University, and cannot see the reason for the existence of the rules when the Principal of a College has full liberty to send up a boy to an examination or not according as he finds him after the test examination fit to be sent up or not. Sickness may prevent a boy from coming to college, and has the University any right to compel him to attend college in spite of his sickness? By the percentage rules the University seems, however, to claim such a right. The operation of these rules compelled some students to prosecute a course of study for five or six years before they were allowed to appear at any

examination. The writer knows of a Law student who, failing to keep up the necessary percentage, did not get permission to appear at the B.L. examination until he had undergone a course of study extending over seven consecutive years. It has become absolutely necessary either to change the rules, or to lay down that the time that a boy is absent for actual sickness shall be counted for percentage purposes.

(e).—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

9. The *Sakachar* of the 19th July has the following on the question of village sanitation in Bengal:—

Village sanitation in Bengal and a sanitary tax.

Government is now particularly anxious to improve the sanitation of Bengal villages, and at a Conference held at Belvedere, Sir Charles Elliott made an endeavour to devise means for the purpose. His Honour's object in holding that Conference was to impose some new tax in the name of sanitation; and though the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerji made the mistake of supporting the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal, the public did not approve of his action in the matter. The Babu's reputation as a patriot has, in consequence, suffered to some extent, and seems to stand in need of rehabilitation. Government has not yet given up the idea of a sanitary cess. In reviewing the Sanitary Commissioner's report, Sir Antony MacDonnell has compared that officer to a skilled workman. The Municipalities and the District Boards are the tools with which the workman has to work, and, in the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor, these tools are indifferent and break in the using. But then a skilled workman can work even with indifferent tools, and there is the Bengali saying that he who knows how to play can play even with broken cowrie-shells. This being the case, the Sanitary Commissioner will give proof of real cleverness if he can work with the Municipalities and the District Boards as he finds them. This officer is, however, profoundly ignorant of the habits and customs of the people, and is making proposal after proposal without enquiring how far it is within the means of the Municipalities and Boards to give effect to them. Clearing of jungle at a time of the year when it grows as fast as it is destroyed is an arduous task, involving considerable expenditure of money, and yet a medical officer has found fault with the Barasat Municipality for not clearing jungle within its limits, apparently forgetting that the Municipality does not possess the means necessary for the purpose. The area of a certain municipality is 15 miles, while its income is only Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 7,000. And even such a municipality is required to construct pukka drains—an undertaking which is absolutely beyond its means. The Sanitary Commissioner is evidently a great believer in his own infallibility, and Government, which also shares this belief, takes Municipalities and District Boards to task for not giving immediate effect to his proposals, however impracticable and expensive they may be. The officers of Government cannot bear contradiction, and protests from those public bodies against such proposals always produce strained relations. And, as a consequence, Government comes to think poorly of those bodies, though they are a most hard-worked set of men. Moreover, it should be borne in mind in this connection that Government is now quietly throwing the cost of primary schools on the shoulders of municipalities, while the District Boards are now required to contribute towards the work of famine relief. All this have had the effect of seriously crippling the resources of these bodies, and they now find themselves unable to undertake sanitary work to the extent which is expected of them. In reviewing the Sanitary Commissioner's report, Sir Antony has acknowledged that the silting up of rivers and the closing of water-courses are the chief causes of the malaria which now prevails in the country. The prevalence of sickness within the Barasat Municipality, in consequence of the silting up of the rivers Suti and Lauire, proves the correctness of the above statement of the Lieutenant-Governor. A very small portion of these rivers, however, flows through the municipal limits, and yet in reply to an address presented to him by the Municipality, Sir Charles Elliott asked it to re-excavate the rivers with money borrowed for the purpose. Will the Municipality then do work even outside its own limits? This is certainly not just and proper. When the residents of a large number of localities are interested in a measure, it ought to be undertaken with money advanced from the Provincial treasury. The utmost that Government can do

SAHACHAR,
July 19th, 1893.

in such cases is to re-excavate the rivers, and then to levy tolls in order to recouping itself for the expenditure incurred. But it will not admit its duty in this matter. There is never any lack of money for military expenditure; but Government finds itself short of funds directly it is asked to re-excavate the Suti and the Laurie in the name of sanitation and the internal trade of the country. It, moreover, chooses to treat the re-excavation of the rivers as a local question, and points out the impropriety of spending money from the Provincial treasury on such local works. But this is not the right view of the matter, for the plea of "local purpose" cannot be justly set up in a case like the present, where public health, trade, and agriculture alike suffer in consequence of the silting up of rivers. If the re-excavation of rivers be a local purpose, then the quartering of the police on the North-Western and North-Eastern frontiers of India is also a local purpose, and the expenses of that police ought to be collected from the villages on those frontiers. Let Government first set the example by doing its duty, and then ask Municipalities and District Boards to do theirs. The river Laurie flows by the Dum-Dum Cantonment. Let an epidemic of fever break out among the soldiers in the Cantonment, and Government's pleas about a "local purpose" and "the condition of the Provincial treasury" will be nowhere. Government ought not to allow the people to think of it in this way.

The writer admits with Sir Antony that the time has come for improving the health of the villages in the mufassal. And His Honour justly remarks that, considering the condition of the country, it will be enough for the present to provide for a supply of pure drinking-water, and that other improvements may be gradually taken in hand. Old village tanks are gradually becoming unfit for use and as people's faith in the excavation of tanks as a work of piety or religious merit has lost its former force, very few rich men and zamindars are now found to excavate them. So the work will have to be undertaken by the general public. Government's proposal to levy a tax for sanitary purposes is, nevertheless, open to objection. To levy particular taxes for particular purposes is a convenient expedient, and a sort of financial quackery, which is often resorted to by British statesmen both here and in England. Like quacks who know of no comprehensive system of treatment, and who, therefore, prescribe different medicines for the different symptoms of the same disease with the result that the patient becomes worse and more debilitated, these men resort to fresh taxation as soon as a necessity for the same arises, and thereby create dissatisfaction. It was Dr. Abernethy who first pointed out the constitutional method of treatment, and discouraged the practice of treating every disease separately and by itself, and it is high time that another Dr. Abernethy was born among Englishmen to point out the fallacy and the weakness of their revenue administration. The Indian authorities say that they have recourse to special taxation even in their own country, but they forget that unlike India England is not required to send twenty crores of rupees to a foreign country. And even in England taxation for special purposes is looked upon with disfavour by the people. The Municipalities and District Boards are now required to do many things which ought to be done by Government, and if they are spared these additional duties, money for sanitary purposes will be made available for them, and there will be no necessity for the imposition of a new tax. The Municipalities, for instance, should not be saddled with the cost of supporting primary education, nor should they be required to pay for the maintenance of portions of Government roads lying within their limits. The Grand Trunk Road, for instance, was not made for the convenience of the Howrah Municipality, and is it not a gross abuse of power by Government to require that Municipality to contribute towards keeping that road in a state of repair? Out of what fund was this road repaired before the establishment of the Howrah Municipality? The District Boards should not be required to contribute towards the cost of famine relief. And Government should itself undertake the re-excavation of silted rivers like the Suti and the Laurie. The District Boards have up to this time made a good many cutcha roads. But most of those roads are good for nothing. They are full of dust in the hot weather, and they become impassable from mud during the rains. And as, in the villages, carts can be easily taken over the fields, the Boards should not have spent money on these cutcha roads. They should in future make only pucca roads when they can. In the meantime let them spend

their money not in road-making, but in excavating tanks. As for the Municipalities, they are already doing this work. Magistrates in charge of districts and sub-divisions may also exert their influence in this matter, for the zamindars require only a little persuasion from them to undertake the excavation of tanks. Thus, in Bengal, there are plenty of money and means, and fresh taxation need not be resorted to for the purpose of supplying villages with pure drinking-water. There is, moreover, the Public Works cess, and its proceeds may be spent for the same purpose. People do not know up to this time what is done with these proceeds. Sir Antony is an honest man, and the writer will not hide from him his suspicions on the subject. The object of Government in this matter is no doubt good, and the people know that disease and mortality among them will decrease with the supply of good drinking-water in the villages. Nevertheless they shrug their shoulders at the name of a new tax. And Government should take this into consideration in devising means for giving effect to its sanitary proposals. Statesmen should not always act on abstract principles. In all their acts they should ask themselves the question—is it possible under the present state of things? It is for this reason that all those great men who founded empires respected even the prejudices of their peoples. But in this matter of the sanitary cess Government is confronted not merely with the prejudices of the people, but also with their sheer inability to pay new taxes. The Sanitary Commissioner wants to convert the country into a London or a Paris in a day, but where is money for his schemes of improvement to come from? People laugh at the proposals which he makes from time to time. He is mad with anger simply because Serampore cannot have a drainage system like that of Calcutta, but he forgets that such a system of drainage will cost a large sum, and that this sum cannot be raised by additional taxation. Dr. Gregg once proposed the re-excavation of the rivers Lauie and Suti, for he knew that the health of the part of the country through which these rivers flow could not possibly be improved without re-excavating them. But did he dare to make this proposal to Government in the same way as he did it to the Municipality of Barasat? People mark all this, and do not place much faith in his schemes of improvement. Let Government first do its duty and then and not before will the people do theirs.

10. The *Samay* of the 21st July has the following:—

Village sanitation in Bengal.

The work of improving the sanitation of the Bengal villages will cost large sums of money, and so it will have to be done by and by. As education spreads among the village people, they will come to interest themselves in sanitary matters. But so long as this does not happen, the Sanitary Commissioner would like to see panchayets and village mandals empowered to prosecute people for infringement of sanitary regulations. The writer cannot approve of this proposal of the Sanitary Commissioner. The condition of the villages is very deplorable, and that of the inhabitants thereof still more so. This being the case, if Government itself does nothing for the sanitary improvement of the villages, unnecessary *zulm* upon the village population will effect no good. The Lieutenant-Governor has accordingly asked all District and Local Boards to adopt sanitary measures slowly and gradually.

11. The *Bangavasi* of the 22nd July has the following in an article entitled "Plain-speaking is good":—

The proposed sanitation tax.

The proposal of a sanitation tax has really caused us anxiety. As it is a matter of rejoicing on the one hand to find Government attending to the health of the people, so it is alarming on the other to contemplate that they will have to pay a tax for the preservation of their health. We should not have been made anxious in the least by this proposal if the people of Bengal had been a wealthy people and able to make any saving, however small, after affording two meals a day. But as a matter of fact the people of Bengal are a very poor people, and this is what has made us so anxious.

Whenever it is proposed to put on a new tax, the object for which it is proposed to be levied is vigorously discussed by the officials of Government. If the object be the removal of some grievance, those officials again and again hold out the hope that the grievance will be removed. We are a loyal people, and as such are deluded by the hopeful words of the officials. We say to ourselves—"Why should we oppose that which is going to be done for our own good?"

SAMAY,
July 21st, 1893.

BANGAVASI,
July 22nd, 1893.

But we have to suffer, at last, for not opposing such proposals, and we therefore wish this time to oppose this proposal about a sanitary tax. Formerly there was no road cess in this country. The authorities took it into their mind to impose that cess, and forthwith the subject of the want of roads in the country began to be discussed in official reports and resolutions and in the Councils and durbars of Government. We then began to hear how the villagers suffered from want of roads, how trade was dull for that reason, and how the country was gradually deteriorating for the same cause, and many other things of the same nature. People then began to hope in their hearts that as soon as the road cess was imposed those wants would be supplied, roads would be constructed within the villages and between the villages, there would be increased facilities of communication, trade would flourish, and their own condition would improve. In this way was the road cess imposed. There is hardly a man in all Bengal who does not pay the road cess. It is now 20 or 22 years since the road cess was imposed. But what good have the people derived from its imposition? Have the hopes which were awakened in their minds by its imposition been fulfilled? The inhabitants of every village in Bengal pay that cess, but there are still thousands of villages in Bengal where not one shovelful of earth has been thrown by way of road-making since that cess was imposed. The proceeds of the cess are now spent in giving female education, in erecting zana hospitals, in relieving distress, and for many other purposes. Has the main object of the cess been fulfilled?

So much for the road-cess. Let us now turn to the famine tax. Thousands of people died of famine in Orissa, and famine converted the Madras Presidency into one vast cremation-ground. The authorities became anxious to save the lives of the people in times of distress. Repeated experience taught them that no relief could be granted from the ordinary revenue of Government, and that it was necessary to lay by something for the purpose of famine relief. The authorities then cast about for means for creating a fund, and after much thought and reflection came to the conclusion that as it was not practicable to grant relief from the revenue available for ordinary expenditure, a new means of raising money must be devised. And how could money be raised if not by imposing a new tax? So the famine tax was proposed and imposed. When that tax was imposed Government expressed its deep sorrow for the previous loss of life in famines, and explicitly stated that the tax was being imposed in order that not a single person might die in future of starvation. From his throne in the Viceregal Council, the then Viceroy, Lord Lytton, declared: "We solemnly promise that not a single pice of this fund shall be spent on any other object." But how long was that promise kept? Two years had scarcely passed away before the fund, which was to have been kept apart every year for famine relief, was spent on frontier defences. The famine tax still exists, and the money raised in the shape of that tax every year is still being hoarded in the Government exchequer. The Government does not also deny the existence of famine in the country. How is it, then, that money is not spent from that fund for the relief of distress? We therefore ask again—Has the object for which the authorities originally created the famine fund been fulfilled?

We have referred only to two taxes, and we will not refer to any other. Now, to come to the proposed sanitation tax. Dr. Gregg, the Sanitary Commissioner of Bengal, says:—"The people of Bengal have no idea of rural sanitation. They do not care to use pure and filtered drinking water. The foul and stagnant tanks are exhaling miasma, but the villagers of Bengal will take no notice of that. The surroundings of their houses and villages are appallingly filthy, and it has been repeatedly pointed out to them that this is the main cause of the unhealthy condition of the villages in Bengal. But it is no use talking or writing pamphlets. They are content to live in ill-health and in the midst of insanitary surroundings, and will not care to obey sanitary rules of their own accord." We will grant all this, but we will ask Dr. Gregg whether he will be able to remove these defects from all the villages in Bengal if a sanitation tax is imposed. Have those who propose the imposition of a sanitation tax ever thought what time and what money will be required to remove those defects? If they have not, we ask them to consider the matter carefully.

We do not like that the promises of those who are regarded as the representatives of the Sovereign should be in any way broken. If the promises of the officials are broken, how will the people feel increased respect for the Sovereign?

12. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 23rd July says that the Hooghly-Chinsura Municipality commits a great mistake in not printing its annual administration reports. It was once proposed to print the administration report for 1892-93, but the proposal was abandoned on the ground of cost. Surely the Municipality would not have become bankrupt if some 50 rupee or so had been spent in printing the report. The printing of these reports serves the important purpose of dispelling popular errors by supplying people with correct information regarding municipal affairs and in this way helps to popularise municipal institutions.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHA,
July 23rd, 1893.

13. The same paper has learnt from a correspondent that most of the dead bodies from the local hospital which are sent for cremation to the Seal's burning ghat at Chinsura are not properly burnt. Half-burnt bodies are sometimes thrown into the Hooghly river, and sometimes allowed to be dragged into the town by dogs and jackals.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHA.

14. A correspondent of the same paper says that the Commissioners of the Naihati Municipality often engage in unnecessary litigation and thereby squander public money in order that they may serve their pleader friends. Their method of assessing municipal rates is characterised by gross wilfulness and partiality. Bhatpara is a small village within the municipality inhabited chiefly by poor Brahman-pandits, but the municipal authorities have increased the assessment of the village by nearly 1,000 rupees. As the Commissioners often disapprove of the lawless proceedings of their Chairman, he seldom takes their opinion in matters of assessment.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHA.

15. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 23rd July has the following:—
Village sanitation in Bengal. Drainage is obstructed everywhere in the country, and this is due to railways, embankments, and culverts. One can also hardly find anywhere in the country good water for drinking or bathing purposes. Both the Lieutenant-Governor and the Sanitary Commissioner see that it is obstructed drainage and want of good water that have rendered Bengal so unhealthy. His Honour is accordingly trying to remedy the evil. The remedy will require expenditure. His Honour himself explicitly says that the first thing that ought to be provided is a supply of good drinking water, and we are one with him on this point. The Lieutenant-Governor has raised the question of money, and we too admit that there are no available funds for the purpose. But we do not quite approve of the means by which he proposes to raise money. Increase of taxation in the villages will be productive of hardship. The majority of people in most of the villages cannot procure food for themselves, and it is want of food which has undermined their health. Under these circumstances, the imposition of a sanitation tax will lead to greater unhealthiness by increasing their poverty. In most villages the excavation of one or two tanks or the re-excavation of old tanks will be sufficient for the purposes of water-supply. Increase of taxation will do harm instead of good. Government ought to spend the greater part of the proceeds of the Road and Public Works cesses in supplying water. Not a single pice of this money ought to be taken into the exchequer. Government ought also for some time to spend money exclusively on water-supply instead of spending it on roads, ghats, railways or tramways. Government need not be very anxious to supply those places with drinking water which have rivers or khals in their neighbourhood. Arrah might very well do without pipe-water. Supply of pipe-water requires large outlays of money. Pure water ought to be supplied only in those places where there are no rivers or flowing water and which depend solely upon tanks for their water-supply. One or two new tanks should be excavated here and there. It would not be bad to set apart tanks for drinking and bathing purposes. But a tank should not be set apart for drinking before another tank has been provided for bathing, or great hardship will be produced. For the present the *panchayats* should be entrusted with the inspection of tanks. Village unions are not indispensable. Let arrangements be made for excavating tanks at first with the proceeds of the road cess. The Lieutenant-Governor should also see that well-to-do people in the country establish a water-supply fund. If Government gives proper

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
July 23rd, 1893.

encouragement it will be easy to create such a fund. The amalgamation of the road cess fund with this fund will greatly facilitate the work of water-supply. Many people in many villages will agree to re-excavate their silted tanks if they obtain loans at a low rate of interest, and are allowed reasonable time for repaying them. Government should afford facilities in this direction too. Neither the Government nor the people should any longer remain indifferent in the matter of the creation of a water-supply fund. The British Indian and other Associations should not also any longer remain indifferent in the matter. An attempt should be made at first for supplying water without increasing taxation. It will be time to think of taxation when the water-supply fund, the road cess fund, the money raised by the public and the loans given by Government for the excavation of tanks, taken together, are found inadequate for the purpose. And increase of taxation should not even be thought of now. The difficulties of the poor villagers should not be further increased. It would be a grave sin to levy for the supply of water even a single pice from those who are not able to procure food for themselves. That will do harm instead of good.

SOM PRAKASH,
July 24th, 1893.

16. The *Som Prakash* of the 24th July has the following on the subject of rural sanitation in Bengal:—

Village sanitation in Bengal.

In his Resolution on the Sanitary Commissioner's report, Sir Antony MacDonnell has compared that officer to a skilled workman. But in His Honour's opinion this workman has to work with indifferent tools. The Municipalities and District Boards are these tools and they are called worthless, simply because they cannot for want of funds always give effect to the proposals which are from time to time made by the Sanitary Commissioner. With the spread of western civilisation in the country, the expenditure incurred by these institutions is increasing, while their incomes continue to be stationary. Thus it is beyond their pecuniary means to undertake extensive schemes of sanitary reform. A municipality with an annual income of 10,000 rupees cannot destroy jungle within its limits or re-excavate a silted river. It cannot do all this with borrowed money, for it has not the means of repaying its loans. To accuse these bodies of incapacity is, under the circumstances, not just and proper. Moreover, these Municipalities and District Boards have to encounter various difficulties in the discharge of their duties. In the first place, they have to quarrel with the people for the collection of taxes, and, in the second place, they have to humour their Magistrate-Chairmen in all their acts. This being the case, it is not proper to call them worthless, even though defects may be discovered here and there in their work. The writer does not say that these bodies are faultless. No, they have a good many faults, but Government is responsible for them. Now to return to the question of sanitation. Mortuary statistics show that the majority of deaths in this country are due to cholera and fever. Steps should therefore be taken to put down these scourges, and they can be kept under check only by providing the people with good drainage and good drinking water. Now, money is wanted for this purpose, and Government proposes to raise it by imposing a new tax. The writer cannot approve of this proposal. The imposition of a tax will make the condition of the villagers simply intolerable. They have been paying the road cess without getting anything in return, and it is not proper to increase their burdens any more. The Municipalities and District Boards can do much in the way of removing the sanitary needs of the people and supplying them with good drinking water, if only they are not saddled with the cost of primary education and the charge of famine relief. The zamindars should be induced by Government to excavate tanks. As for the re-excavation of silted rivers that is a task which ought to be taken in hand by Government itself. It may, however, levy tolls on these re-excavated rivers in order to recoup itself for the expenditure incurred.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
July 26th, 1893.

17. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 26th July has the following on the question of village sanitation in Bengal —

Village sanitation in Bengal.

During 1892, the municipalities within the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal spent in round numbers nearly 15 lakhs of rupees on the work of sanitation. Of this sum only 1,50,000 rupees were spent on water-supply. The Lieutenant Governor has expressed his regret at this, but the municipalities cannot be blamed in the matter. Whenever they curtail

expenditure in any direction, they are rebuked by the authorities. If Sir Antony MacDonnell remains Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and if he encourages the municipalities to spend largely on the work of water-supply, some of them will no doubt curtail their expenditure in other directions and increase that on the head of water-supply. But the idea of supplying filtered water will have to be abandoned. Coal ought not to be imported into a place like Raniganj, and in the same way no good purpose will be served by supplying filtered water in places where river water is easily procurable. Filtered water is a luxury, while good drinking water is a necessity, and let the necessary article be supplied first. The river water below Calcutta becomes saline in hot weather, and as the sewage of the town was formerly discharged into the river, it was found necessary to supply the town with water taken from the river at Falta. But river-water even where turbid and not properly filtered does not cause sickness. During the late rains the filtered water from Falta was very turbid, and yet no sickness was caused in Calcutta by its use. This goes to prove that filtered water is not a necessity but a luxury. No harm would have been done to India if Bhagalpur and Arrah had not been supplied with filtered water; but disease and mortality among a population of three crores in Bengal is really bringing India to the brink of ruin. Thus, the lakhs of rupees which are now spent in supplying filtered water to the towns should in future be spent in excavating tanks and wells and in re-excavating old tanks, &c., all over the country. No municipality ought to be compelled to get into debt for the sake of filtered water. Let filtered water be supplied to places where the cost of such supply is paid by a Raja Suryya Kanta or a Nawab Abdul Gunny, and not to places where the cost will have to be met by borrowed money or, in other words, by increasing the burdens of the rate-payers. The supply of filtered water has everywhere increased municipal debt and increased the burdens of the people, but in every one of these places good drinking water could have been supplied at a much lower cost by the excavation of tanks, wells, &c. It has been a sin to purchase the luxury of filtered water with borrowed money. Englishmen are born in a country of mills and mechanical contrivances, and may naturally feel a partiality for such contrivances. Moreover, as a people they have an interest in getting things done by means of machinery. But why should the natives of this country be partial to mechanical contrivances and use water procured with their help?

Dr. Gregg's remarks on the subject of rural sanitation, in the course of which he speaks of the insanitary habits of the people and their apathy in sanitary matters generally, and proposes to empower panchayets and village headmen to prosecute people for non-compliance with sanitary regulations, are then quoted and the following remarks are made:—

1. Dr. Gregg apparently inspects villages with his eyes shut, or he would not have jumped to the conclusion that village people wilfully use the water of foul tanks. As a matter of fact, they never use the water of such tanks for drinking and bathing purposes where good tanks are available. They have to resort to foul tanks only because they cannot get good ones. The writer says this from his own mufassal experience.

2. Dr. Gregg is greatly mistaken in thinking that the people, though cleanly enough as regards their persons and the interior of their houses, do not keep the surroundings of their villages clean. He has jumped to this conclusion without considering the question of ways and means. The fact that roads, &c., in villages where there is no malaria and which are inhabited by well-to-do people are kept neat and clean is a practical refutation of the Sanitary Commissioner's statement. Before the outbreak of malaria in Bengal and before the drainage of the province was obstructed by railway embankments, all the villages in the Hooghly district were neat and clean and free from filth of any kind. At that time jungle in the villages was regularly destroyed on the occasion of the Durga puja, and the compounds and court-yards of houses were kept neat and clean. This practice was observed also on the occasion of their pujas, including even *barwaris* and the marriages. But now the villages are in a bad condition; a good many of their inhabitants are dead, while the well-to-do among the survivors habitually live elsewhere. It is only a few wicked men that now live in the villages, and they are too much occupied with the work of supplying their daily wants to attend to sanitary

matters. They cannot keep even their own houses clean, and how can they look to the sanitation of their villages?

3. The writer knows as well as Dr. Gregg that no amount of sanitary teaching will avail in the least, but he cannot endorse the Sanitary Commissioner's statement that the people are happy, though unhealthy, in the midst of their insanitary surroundings. Health and happiness go together; even beasts and birds do not feel happy when they are out of health. This being the case, how can an unhealthy Bengal villager be happy? No, he is not happy, but he does not complain simply because, fatalist as he is, he accepts his situation as inevitable. The fates are against him, the officials of Government are busy with the towns, and there is no one to help him, and so he must expect no amelioration of his condition. This reflection reconciles him to his situation. His apathy is no index of his happiness or contentment. The writer understands this, but how can Dr. Gregg do so?

4. As Dr. Gregg says, the villagers use the same tanks for all purposes, but the writer cannot admit with the Doctor that they obstinately persist in doing so even when tanks for special purposes are provided for them. Where separate tanks for bathing and drinking purposes exist, people rarely use the tank set apart for bathing or for drinking purposes and *vice versa*. Their poverty is the cause of all their misery; and as they cannot afford to have separate tanks for separate purposes, they have no alternative but to use the same tank for all purposes. Let Dr. Gregg first take steps to put down the water-scarcity prevailing in the country and then, and not before, indulge in empty talk.

5. The writer can on no account approve of Dr. Gregg's proposal to empower panchayets and village headmen to prosecute villagers for breaking sanitary regulations, for that will lead to much oppression. There will be time for making proposals of this nature after the water scarcity in the country has been removed.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

SANJIVANI,
July 22nd, 1893.

18. The *Sanjivani* of the 22nd July says that the forthcoming Railway Conference will consider the advisability of reducing the third class fare on all railways from 2½ pies per mile to 1½ pies for males and to 1 pie for females per mile. There can be little doubt that a reduction of the fares will bring larger profits to the railways. Moreover, the poverty of the people of this country certainly calls for such reduction. The question of attaching water-closets to the female compartments of railway carriages has long been under consideration, and some of the railways have already provided such accommodation in the intermediate class carriages. But arrangements should now be made for attaching water-closets to all carriages of the third and intermediate classes intended for females. The Conference ought also to consider the question of overcrowding of carriages. Though under the railway rules not more than ten persons can be seated in one compartment of the third and intermediate class carriages, sometimes 13 or even 14 persons are compelled to travel in one compartment. The question of erecting large bathing platforms in all the important stations ought also to receive attention. The Railway authorities should be made to provide Hindu and Muhammadan refreshment rooms in all the larger stations.

SANJIVANI.

19. The same paper says that under its present management the speed of the trains on the Nalhati Azimganj Railway has been increased from 10 to 15 miles per hour, and that the lines have been widened to suit the larger carriages which have been introduced. But the bad level of the lines causes serious inconvenience to passengers who get severe jerkings and are in constant fear of derailment of the train. The absence of fencing along the lines is a source of serious danger to foot passengers, as the foot road lies alongside of the railway line. Several accidents have occurred within the last two or three months by which two men and some 45 cattle have been killed. The number of trains which run on the line now has been increased from two to three each way, and the present timing of the trains has greatly benefited the passengers, as they have not now to wait for hours together for trains. But though a larger number of trains are run daily, the staff has not been increased,—rather the number of guards has been

reduced by one. This causes extreme hardship to the railway staff. In many stations one man has to do duty for the whole night and also for some hours of the succeeding day.

The writer draws the attention of the authorities to the absence of water-closets in an important station like the Nalhati junction. The very low platforms in the intermediate stations constitute another inconvenience to which the passengers are put on the Nalhati-Azimganj line.

(h)—General.

20. The *Bangavasi* of the 22nd July has heard that owing to the very

BANGAVASI,
July 22nd, 1893.

The car festival at Puri. heavy press of pilgrims at Puri, the authorities did not allow the doors of the temple of Jagannath to be opened one day. If this is a fact, they did not certainly act well. On some previous occasions the crush was not certainly less, if not greater than that in the present year. But no lives have ever been lost from this cause. People who in their heart's longing to have a look at the god Jagannath come from long distances not minding expenditure or hardship and caring little for their lives ought to be given free access to the temple. But this was not done this year. It is said that on the day of the car festival, the car of Jagannath was not drawn, those of Balavadra and Suvadra alone being drawn. The writer fails to understand what all this means. Those who are appointed to look after the health and comfort of the pilgrims should look after those matters alone; why should they on the pretext of discharging their duties interfere with the religious ceremonies of the pilgrims? Government ought to hold an enquiry with the view of ascertaining whether there is any foundation for the circumstances reported above, and if so, to take such steps as may prevent their recurrence in future.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

21. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 25th July sees nothing

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
July 25th, 1893.

The Hon'ble Mr. W. C. Bonnerji's questions in the Bengal Council. improper in the Hon'ble Mr. W. C. Bonnerji's questions relating to the tours of the Lieutenant-Governor and his residence in the Darjeeling hills, which were put at the last meeting of the Bengal Council. The *Statesman* and the *Englishman* newspapers have found fault with these questions, and the former has gone the length of comparing them with the frivolous questions which are sometimes put in the House of Commons. As for the *Englishman*, it is all fire and would like to see the right of interpellation still further curtailed if such questions are put in future. The writer cannot approve of this criticism in the Anglo-Indian press. It is his firm conviction that the tours of Lieutenant-Governors do more harm than good. A Lieutenant-Governor like Sir Charles Elliott who rapidly tours through his dominions, detecting the faults and shortcomings of his officers and attending to petty details of administration, can never keep his head cool and properly handle important public questions. This being the case, there was nothing improper in the question relating to the Lieutenant-Governor's tours. As for the question relating to the Lieutenant-Governor's exodus to the hills there can be nothing objectionable in it even from the point of view of the Anglo-Indian press, seeing that the *Englishman* and other Anglo-Indian papers are themselves opposed to such sojourning in the hills by Government.

22. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 25th July cannot approve of the proposal

SULABH DAINIK,
July 25th, 1893.

Payment of non-official members of the Legislative Councils.

to pay a fixed allowance to every non-official member of the Legislative Councils, inasmuch as it would involve an unnecessary increase of public expenditure. It Government has been led to make the proposal in the belief that really good work cannot be obtained gratis, why does it not abolish the posts of Honorary Magistrates, jurors and panchayets? Before proposing to pay non-official members of Councils, Government should see that allowances are paid to the Honorary Magistrates, for there is risk of greater mischief from perfunctory work done by Magisterial officers than from that done by members of Councils. If the proposal is carried into effect, there is no knowing what bribery and corruption will prevail at the next election of non-official members. Offices carrying salaries of Rs. 3,000 per annum will hold out very strong temptations to the

candidates, and many of them will not improbably have recourse to unjustifiable means to get themselves elected to the Councils. The step ought not to be taken without very careful consideration.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
July 18th, 1893.

23. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 18th July has the following:—

The prices of all articles have risen in the district of Burdwan. Rice is selling at 13 or 13½ seers cutcha per rupee, and many families daily require more than 1 rupee worth of rice. There can be no doubt that distress is very severe, not only among poorer classes, but also among middle class people. The time for sowing crops is come; but the agriculturists, most of whom have no reserve of paddy in their houses and have to labour for their daily bread, are unable to raise money to meet the expenses of cultivation. When famine visited the district last time, rice sold at 12 or 13 seers per rupee, and yet Government took various measures to put down distress among the people. But this year no attempt has yet been made in this direction. It is true people are not dying for want of food, but is it not also true that many of them are living on insufficient meals? Government ought to institute special enquiries in order to ascertain the condition of the people. The situation is becoming worse every day, and Government ought not to remain indifferent any longer. Unless it takes timely measures beforehand, it will find the task of famine relief a most difficult one.

BANGANIVASI,
July 21st, 1893.

24. The *Banganivasi* of the 21st July says that the violent storm towards

Crops in the Contai sub-division
of the Midnapore district.

the end of May and the subsequent heavy rainfall have completely destroyed the crops in the Contai sub-division of the Midnapore district. The low-lying parganas Nadnamutha, Bhunyamutha, Sujamutha, Jalamutha, Amarasi, Bajarpur, Paharpur, and Daudakharni in this sub-division have been completely submerged. Many houses, huts and trees have been uprooted by the force of the storm. Rice is selling at Rs. 4 per maund, and paddy at Rs. 2-2 per maund. By the month of *Kartik* not a single raiyat will probably have a handful of paddy left in his granary. A famine will be inevitable unless Government not only remits the rents in the khas mahals for the whole of the next Bengali year, but also makes advances of money to the raiyats.

SANJIVANI,
July 22nd, 1893.

25. The *Sanjivani* of the 22nd July publishes the following reports:—

Crop reports.

(1) The standing crops in Magura in the Jessore district have been completely submerged. The people are in great distress, and cannot procure paddy for money. The *aus* rice is selling at Rs. 4-8 per maund.

(2) There is an incessant downpour in Maheshpur-Fatehpur in the Jessore district. The rivers, canals, and *beels* have all become full to the brim. Price of rice is steadily increasing.

(3) Incessant rains for about a month have completely destroyed the paddy crops in Kesjani in the Mymensingh district. The prospects of the jute and *aus* crops were hopeful, but they have been almost completely submerged. Indications of a famine are apparent. The cattle in this and adjoining villages are faring very badly, about three hundred cows having died within a short time in these villages. Disease among the cattle has not yet abated. The cultivators are, for the above reasons, reduced to great poverty. Rice is selling at Rs. 3-8 per maund.

(4) The excessive rains have caused greater suffering to the people of Noakhali than they experienced last year. A rupee can be had by pawning three tolas of silver, and interest has to be paid from three to four pice per rupee per month. Fodder too has become scarce and has doubled in price. The cattle are in a miserable condition. Better sort of paddy can be had at 19 seers per rupee, and rice is selling at Rs. 3-12 to Rs. 4 per maund.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SAHACHAR
July 19th, 1893.

26. The *Sahachar* of the 19th July has the following about the late Nawab

The late Nawab Abdul Lutif.

Abdul Lutif:—

If the late Nawab had taken his birth in any European country, he would have attained the rank of a Cabinet Minister. But

here all avenues to fame are closed to the people, and so the Nawab could not obtain under Government anything like the post to which he was entitled in consequence of his abilities and good qualities. If he had been able to remain in Bhupal for some time longer he could have shown good work. But the intrigues of the Political Officers made him leave that place; for, though much lip-favour is now shown to the Muhammadans, these men could not forget that the Nawab was a Bengali. If Government had sent the Nawab, instead of a Panjabi Mussulman, as Political Officer to the North-West frontier, a good deal of the trouble which has of late arisen there would have been prevented, and diplomacy would have achieved the object which has involved so much expenditure of money and such vast military operations. Lord Dufferin would not have been ashamed in that case to consider the Nawab his equal in the diplomatic art. But Government here does not trust the people, and though it often raises the cry of loyalty, it will not give the people an opportunity of showing that loyalty in a practical form. This distrust of others is a characteristic of the British people, and it is this which deprives them of help from their subjects. Their policy in this respect affords a contrast to that of the Russians.

27. The *Banganivasi* of the 21st July has the following:—

Quarrels between Hindus and Muhammadans.

Quarrels between Hindus and Mussulmans have been very frequent this year in every part of the country, and it is only the people's fear of the law that has hitherto prevented bloodshed on any considerable scale.

Those Mussulmans who really consider it a religious duty to sacrifice cows would not certainly lose all religious merit if they did not make the sacrifice in the presence of the Hindus. Besides, it is questionable whether cow-slaughter should not be prohibited in places where the practice has not yet been introduced, or where it has been introduced only lately. The writer fails to see why cow-slaughter should be allowed in places where not a cow was slaughtered during a thousand years of Muhammadan rule.

The Hindus and the Muhammadans should on no account quarrel among themselves. Those Hindus who attempt forcibly to prevent cow-slaughter ought to be checked with a strong hand. Nor should those Mussulmans be allowed to go unpunished who wilfully and maliciously wound the religious feelings of the Hindus by slaughtering cows in their presence or in the vicinity of their temples. Ill-feeling between the Hindus and the Mussulmans will surely go on increasing unless the leaders of the two communities pay particular attention to the matter. The *Mohurram* festival is close at hand, and who can say how many riots will take place during its observance? In the writer's opinion it is the Musulmans who have of recent years conceived a particular ill-feeling against the Hindus, and have commenced to oppress them. And there are not a few illiterate Hindus who take the opportunity of these Mussulman festivals to bring about riots. Religious fanaticism is more common among the Mussulmans than among the Hindus of the present day, and it is the Mussulmans who must be primarily blamed for the occurrence of these frequent riots.

28. The *Sanjivani* of the 22nd July gives some instances of the oppression

Salaam-loving officials in Shillong.

committed by certain Shillong officials upon the people of that place with the object of exacting from them *salaams*, and says that when such oppression can be committed in the very metropolis of Assam, who can say what oppression is committed in the interior of the province. It is to be hoped that Mr. Ward will make an enquiry into the matter and save the residents of Shillong from their salaam-loving oppressors.

29. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 23rd July cannot agree with

Increased mortality among infants.

Dr. Gregg in thinking that the increased mortality among native infants is due to the absence of the Western mode of nursing and to the prevalence of early marriage. If these had been the real causes of the increased mortality, that mortality would have been far heavier before. This increased mortality is, in the writer's opinion, mainly due to the derangement of the liver, which has now become far more common with the infants in towns than before. A deranged liver caused by malaria is not so fatal as an enlarged and hardened liver unattended by fever. Doctors disagree as to the cause of this derangement. Allopathic doctors attribute this to the

BANGANIVASI,
July 21st, 1893.

SANJIVANI,
July 22nd, 1893.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
July 23rd, 1893.

badness of the mother's milk, while native physicians find fault with cow's milk. The Lieutenant-Governor and the Sanitary Commissioner should try to find out the cause of this frequent derangement of the liver among infants.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
July 24th, 1893.

30. The same paper of the 24th July says that the British officials at Rangoon showed considerable impartiality in dealing with the *Bugr-Id* riots there, simply because they knew that as the number of Hindus residing in Burma was small, no political purpose would be served by fomenting discord between them and the Mussalmans. But nowhere in India, neither in the Punjab, nor in the North-Western Provinces, nor in Oudh could these officials act with impartiality in dealing with cow-slaughter riots. Magistrates and even High Court Judges were influenced by political considerations in dealing with these riots. But the Judges and the officials ought to bear in mind that a swerving from the path of strict justice, be it never so inconsiderable, is in the long run calculated to produce disastrous consequences. The people have still confidence in Sir Charles Crosthwaite, and the writer will be sorry to see that confidence impaired in any way.

SULABH DAINIK,
July 24th, 1893.

31. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 24th July says that the presentation of a wedding gift worth many thousands of rupees to the Duke of York will be like the pouring of the water of a tank into the ocean. The large sum of money which is being raised for the purpose of the gift will impoverish India, but it will not make the Duke any the richer. The writer would rather suggest that the fund raised should be utilised in giving a feast to the starving millions of India, whose hearty blessings will be worth many thousands of wedding gifts.

SULABH DAINIK,
July 26th, 1893.

32. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 26th July has the following in the course of an article headed "Who is to blame?"—
Quarrels between Hindus and Musalmans. On whom rests the blame of the late riots between the Hindus and Musalmans? So far as can be ascertained, the riots were everywhere brought about by the fault of the authorities, by the insolence, shortsightedness, and ignorance of the religion of the people on the part of the Magistracy. Yet these very officers are considered the best criminal judges and the strongest supports of the empire.

The Magistrates being, as a rule, Europeans are beef-eaters, and cannot therefore see any objection to the slaughter of cows and beef-eating by the Muhammadans. A Magistrate is rather astonished that the Muhammadan should come to him for permission to slaughter cows. He grants the Muhammadan's prayer at once, and considers any objections made by the Hindus as arising from mere prejudice. He also at once binds down the Hindus to keep the peace, and encourages the Muhammadans by personally appearing at the place of the slaughter. The illiterate, hot-blooded Muhammadans naturally enough take this in the light of an encouragement given them by Her Majesty herself to slaughter cows. What wonder that they should fear nobody? This explains the origin of the quarrels which ultimately lead to bloodshed. The blame rests therefore entirely on the shoulders of the Government's pet Civilian Magistracy, who have scarcely any experience of the manners and customs of the people. And yet the Secretary of State did not hesitate to declare the other day that the Civilians rendered the greatest help in carrying on the administration of the country.

The authorities entertain the most inveterate ill-feeling towards the Hindus. There was great oppression of the Hindus under the reign of Aurungzebe. It was during that reign that the Muhammadans escaped scot-free after persecuting the Hindus. It was during that rule that the *Ziziah* (poll-tax) was imposed, and the Hindu's cup of misery was full to overflowing. Is it not a sin even to think that Aurungzebe's time has come back to India even under the beneficent British Government? But the action of the authorities fully reminds one of the *Ziziah* tax. Either with the object of maintaining the public peace during the *Muharram* festival, or with the object of keeping the Hindus under check, a military police force has been stationed in Azamgarh at a cost of Rs. 30,000. The cost is to be borne entirely by the Hindus, the Muhammadans of the place not being called upon to contribute a cowrie towards it. What is this but the *Ziziah* in another shape? What has more surprised the writer is

that after the riots in Azamgarh, only Hindus to the number of 400 were arrested, as if the Muhammadans had nothing to do with the riots. A military police has also been stationed at Bareilly, and there too the Hindus alone will have to bear the cost.

If more instances of the attitude of the authorities in these quarrels were wanted, the writer could point to the occurrence at Bazardiya near Benares, where the greatest violence has been done to the religious feelings of the Hindus by the Musalmans, and yet it is the Hindus who are being sent to jail by the authorities in batches. The writer is fully aware that the riots between the Hindus and the Musalmans in the North-Western Provinces are the fruit of the seeds of dissension sown among them by the late Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Auckland Colvin. But will Sir Charles Crosthwaite quietly accept the results brought about by the folly of his predecessor? Or is His Honour determined not to say anything to what his Civilian brothers may do? Under these circumstances, it is absolutely necessary that the Government of India should at once order an enquiry into the cause of the present quarrels between the Hindus and the Musalmans.

ASSAM PAPERS.

33. The *Srihattavasi* (a new paper) for the first fortnight of *Sravan* 1300 B. S. says that the action of the Assam Government in increasing the fees in the upper classes of all the Government schools by 8 annas per month and those in the lower classes by 12 annas per month has placed the education given in the zilla schools beyond the reach of the poor people. The Chief Commissioner is requested to reconsider the matter.

SRIHATTAVASI,
First Fortnight of
Sravan, 1300.

34. The same paper says that, after the passing of the Jhum Regulation, the Assam Government published in the local gazette a list of lands which were declared to be brought under the operation of that law, and the public were prohibited from trespassing on those lands or using the produce thereof. Those people, whose rights were affected by this order, instituted suits in the civil courts for a declaration of their rights in those lands. While these suits have been pending Government has issued notices to the parties concerned, calling upon them to show cause why the lands in question should not be confiscated under section 43 of the Land and Revenue Regulation. It is clear that Government will hear of no objections, but is determined upon confiscation. But will such action increase the people's respect for the authorities? And will it not tarnish the fame of the British Government? While the matter is still under the consideration of the law courts, it is certainly not proper for the authorities to act in this way. Government attempted to confiscate the same lands some seven or eight years ago, but could not effect its purpose at that time owing to the objection raised by the owners that they held the lands under the decennial settlement which was still in force.

SRIHATTAVASI.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 29th July 1893.

